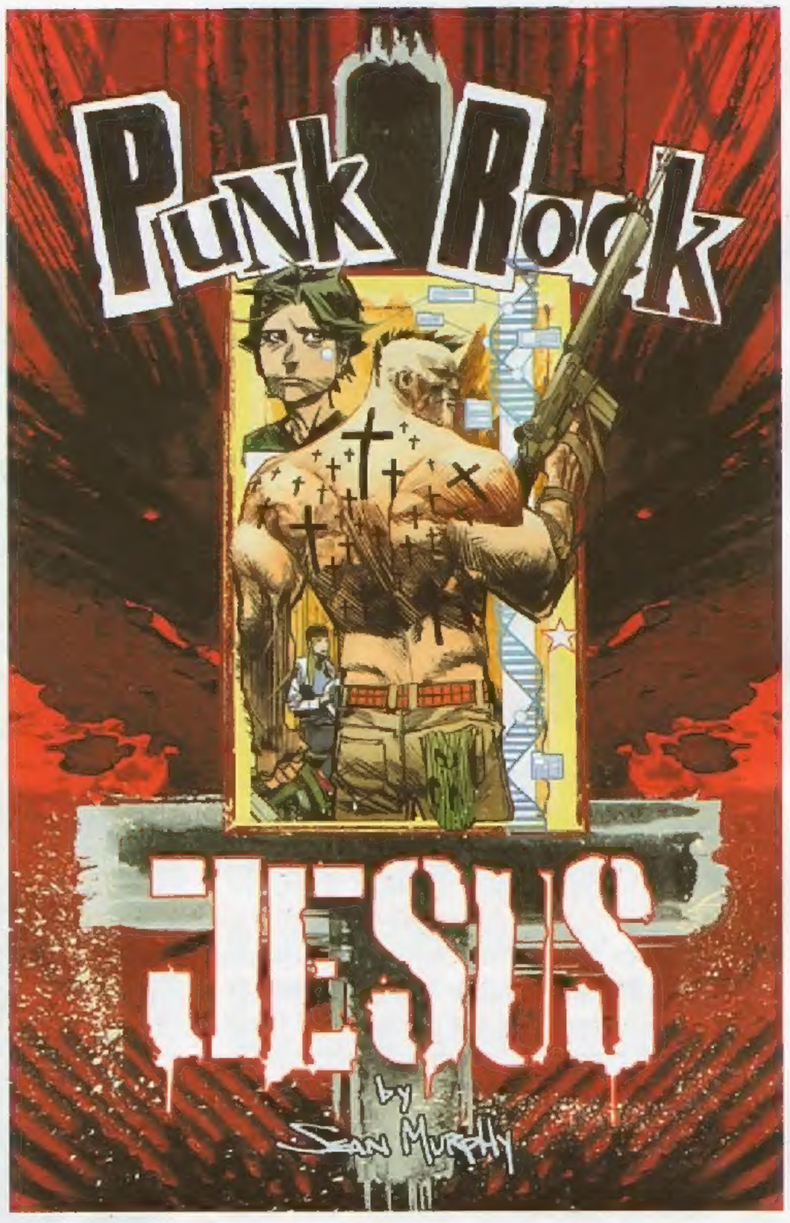
1306

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

PUNK ROCK JESUS

by Sean Murphy

Personal Jesus



How would the world react to the cloning of Jesus of Nazareth?

That's the question that *Sean Murphy* answers in his Vertigo miniseries ***Punk Rock Jesus***—but the answer is not at all what you might expect.

"***Punk Rock Jesus*** is about what would happen if a major broadcasting company decided to make a reality show starring Jesus Christ by cloning him from the Shroud of Turin," *Sean Murphy* said. "The show is a huge success as the clone becomes the biggest celebrity in history. But as the years go by, the show becomes more corrupt, and eventually things fall apart. At the age of fourteen, the clone decides he's had enough--that's when he escapes his TV prison and resurfaces as the leader of a punk rock band. Thus begins his war against the media, politics, and the faith that America holds so dearly."

Any time a writer delves into religious territory, he runs the risk of eliciting extreme reactions from his audience. With ***Punk Rock Jesus*** built on such a controversial premise, is Murphy prepared for the varied responses the limited series might generate? "When I go to conventions and meet with readers who are apprehensive about the nature of my book, I do my best to put them at ease," Murphy explained. "My wife is religious and she has no problem with ***Punk Rock Jesus***. This book isn't about hitting people over the heads with atheism—rather, it's meant as a comment on what America might look like if the struggle between science, religion, and politics doesn't get resolved."

Surprisingly, Murphy admits that making a religious statement with ***Punk Rock Jesus*** wasn't his primary motivation. "Mostly I wrote it around things that I wanted to draw," he said. "The series has punk rock, sci-fi, fight scenes, and a lot of interesting settings. The religious aspect is secondary--something to tie it all together and make it relevant."

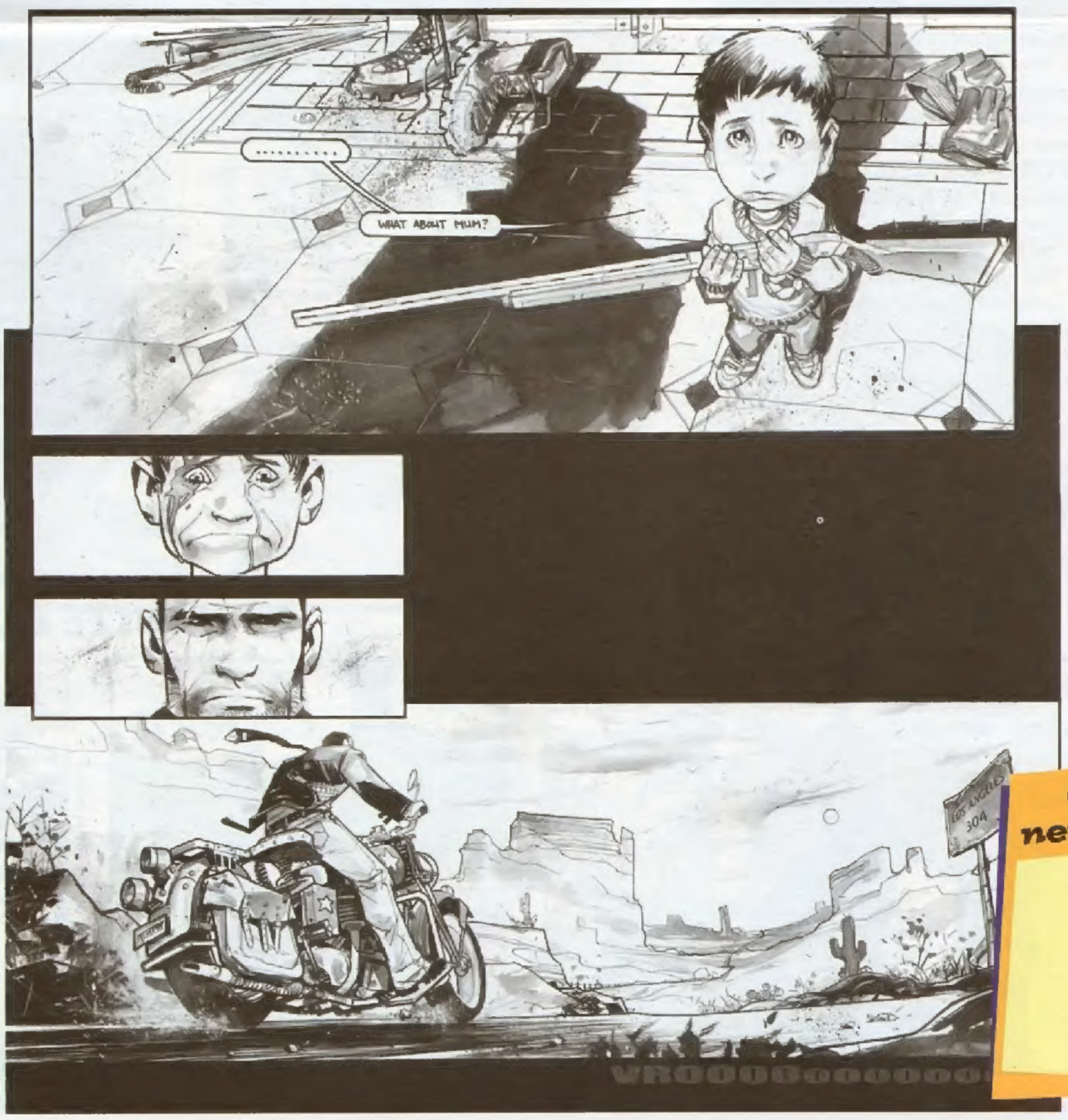
What view—or views—of Christianity run through ***Punk Rock Jesus***? And how does the world—particularly the religious world—deal with the idea that Jesus has been cloned? "Many types of belief systems play a part in this book. There are flashback scenes that deal with the IRA and Catholic/Protestant violence. There are Jewish characters, Muslim extremists, and two types of Christian groups: both fundamentalist and moderate Christians," Murphy explained. "If a Jesus clone actually existed, it would affect more than just Christians, so I tried to include a fair amount of variety to make sure I treat the subject fairly. Jesus Christ is a big hit in the US, so I imagine that if a clone were created in real life, events might transpire a little like how they do in the book.

"And just like today, each person in ***Punk Rock Jesus*** has a different view of what Jesus is or what he might be. Some are skeptical, some think he's a fake. Some think it's the Second Coming, while others think it's a joke."

In a media-savvy world where shows fail due to the fickleness of the viewership, ***J2*** suffers a different fate. "The ratings for the show are huge--in a way, it fails because it's *too* huge," Murphy said.

Murphy uses a blend of storytelling approaches to present the story of the cloned Jesus from his childhood, youth, and teenage years. "The trick of the story was covering a fourteen year period," Murphy said. "While the main plot is linear, there's another plot line that's told through flashback: the history of the bodyguard who's hired to protect Jesus. As a reformed IRA hit-man, the bodyguard's own struggle with his faith is similar to the clone's struggle. He and the clone end up having a lot in common. They become very close throughout the story—and that connection was very interesting to write and draw."

The former IRA hit-man turned bodyguard plays a pivotal role in ***Punk Rock Jesus.*** "Thomas McKael comes from a very rough past in Northern Ireland. And while his terrorist training makes him a perfect bodyguard against terrorist threats made against the clone, that training came at a price," Murphy explained. "He's still a devote Catholic and he carries tremendous guilt for the things that he's done. Being involved with the TV show is a way for him to make up for his sins. Secretly, he believes the clone represents the Second Coming described in the Bible—so when the clone becomes an atheist, it makes his journey that much harder."


.....
WHAT ABOUT MUM?
VROOOO

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

DC Zeroes In on New 52

September marks the one-year anniversary of the launch of DC's New 52 initiative—a bold "reset" of the entire DCU that presented a contemporary reinvention of the company's heroes and villains. Rather than publishing the thirteenth issues of those series, however, DC is celebrating with a Zero Month, which is just what it sounds like: a month-long series of zero issues featuring standalone stories that will appeal to readers who have followed the New 52 since its debut—and for those who have heard about the line and are looking for an ideal jumping-on point.

"Some issues will tell the origins of a character or a team, or in some case where an origin has already been told, they will fill in the blanks in terms of questions readers may have about the New 52 DC Universe," said *Bob Harras*, DC Entertainment Editor-in-Chief. "Each of these issues promises to reveal something surprising."

"We started at different points for the different series," DiDio said in an Associated Press story. "We underestimated the hunger and appetite that readers would have for this backstory when we launched. The readership has been very intrigued in finding out the backstory in the five years since the emergence of the Justice League."

In addition, September will see the debut of a third wave of New 52 releases: four new series kick off with special zero issues in September, leading into their first issues a month later. The new series are

• ***Talon,*** written by *Scott Snyder & James Tynion IV* with art by *Guillem March*. The series stars Calvin Rose, the only Talon to ever escape the grasp of the Court of Owls. This former assassin of the Court is trying to live a normal life ... but that's impossible when he's being hunted by his former masters!

• ***Team Seven,*** written by *Justin Jordan* with art by *Jesus Merino*. This series is set in the early days of the New 52, shortly after the first appearance of Superman in the DC Universe (as chronicled in the first ***Action Comics*** story arc). As the Man of Steel emerges, so do the world's counter measures against him and his kind. Team 7 is comprised of Dinah Lance, Amanda Waller, Steve Trevor, John Lynch, Alex Fairchild, Cole Cash and Slade Wilson — and their story will change everything you know about the New 52.

• ***Sword of Sorcery,*** written by *Christy Marx* with art by *Aaron Lopresti*. This series features the return of Amethyst. Amy Winston leads a strange life on the road with her mother and resents it. She's about to learn it's all been necessary when she discovers she's the lost princess of Gemworld—and she's being hunted by her murderous aunt. ***Sword of Sorcery*** also features a back-up story by *Tony Bedard & Jesus Saiz*, set in a post-apocalyptic wasteland, the monstrous warrior Beowulf is charged with finding and defeating the evil Grendel.

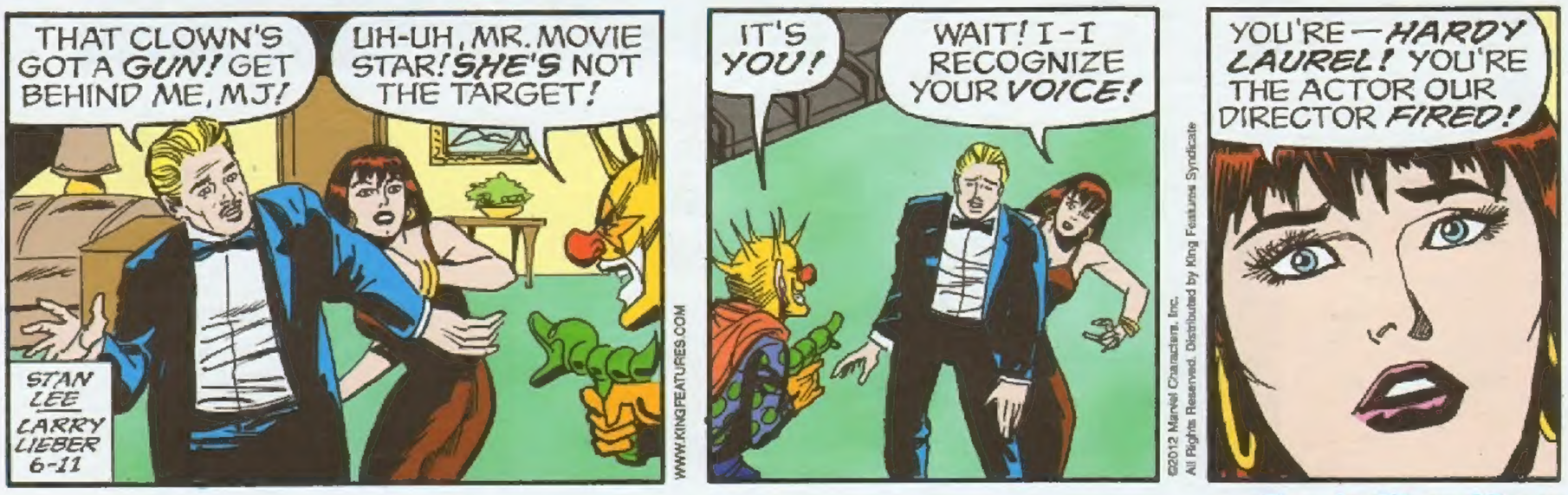
• ***The Phantom Stranger,*** written by *Dan DiDio* with art by *Brent Anderson*. This series, with crucial links to the Stranger's recent appearances in ***Justice League*** and DC's ***Free Comic Book Day 2012 Special,*** reveals much more about the Phantom Stranger, his biblical history and origins, and his connections to the enigmatic Pandora.

Additionally, Zero Month will see the release of ***DC Universe Presents #0,*** which features four ten-pages stories spotlighting some of the New 52 series cancelled to make room for the Second Wave. The issue will feature a ten-page origin of O.M.A.C., a ten-page Mr. Terrific tale, a ten-page Hawk and Dove story, and a ten-page story spotlighting Mother Machine, a character who first appeared in ***Blackhawks.***

Dan DiDio explained to **newsarama.com** how these new series fit in. "Each one of them serves a very particular purpose for the New 52. First of all, we want to confirm our commitment to diversity and product. And we know that series that fit into the brand of the Edge and the Dark have a little harder fight, because they're not the more recognizable characters. But that doesn't mean we've walked away from that. Quite the opposite. What we're actually doing is embracing it.

"We created a new anthology book in the same vein as ***All-Star Western***, which is ***Sword of Sorcery***. The lead character I think is going to excite a lot of people, which is Amethyst... We haven't seen her as a major player in the DC Universe for awhile, and now we're bringing her back into the fold. We're also going to have a back-up with Beowulf for that, which is another character that people might recognize from a long time ago at DC. But again, we're showing a commitment to the fantasy aspect of the DC Universe by doing this series.

"We're also showing commitment to the horror or darker corners of the DCU with ***Phantom Stranger***. As people saw in his


SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
THAT CLOWN'S GOT A GUN! GET BEHIND ME, MJ!
UH-UH, MR. MOVIE STAR! SHE'S NOT THE TARGET!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
6-11
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
IT'S YOU!
WAIT! I-I RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE!
YOU'RE—HARDY LAUREL! YOU'RE THE ACTOR OUR DIRECTOR FIRED!
©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

COMIC SHOP NEWS

Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.

©2012 Comic Shop News, Inc. All Rights Reserved

EDITORS

Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

Printed by Transcontinental Interglobe, Beauceville, QC, Canada

appearances in some of our featured stories over the last year, the character plays a role in what's coming for the DC Universe in the future.

"But while we're moving forward with ***Phantom Stranger***, we can switch back and look backwards, and we created ***Team Seven***. It's set in the early stages of seven very recognizable characters' careers in the DC Universe. And it shows who they are, and how they came to be. It also helps fill in a lot of the missing spots in the DCU as we unfold their stories as part of this team.

"Plus we're very committed to finding ways to take so many great concepts that existed in WildStorm, and then finding ways to integrate them fully so they're an actual part of the DC Universe and the New 52.

"And then lastly, we had so much great success with the 'Night of the Owls' storyline, that we picked up a very clear, new character spin-off, which is ***Talon***. And that shows our commitment to showing new ideas, new characters, new stories and something that didn't have a pre-conceived notion that existed before the launch of the New 52. This is a brand new concept, and a brand new series with a brand new character. And I think that's important too, because it shows that we're not just going to keep rehashing old territory, but really start to pave new ground as well."

So which series are being cancelled to make room for the four newcomers? DC has already announced the end of ***Justice League International*** with August's #12, but for now, they aren't saying which other series might be coming to an end—and in fact, at least one source has indicated that DC will actually be publishing more than 52 zero issues in September, so it's not clear if there will be more cancellations or not. Look for more clarification next week.

First Blood Readied for Circulation

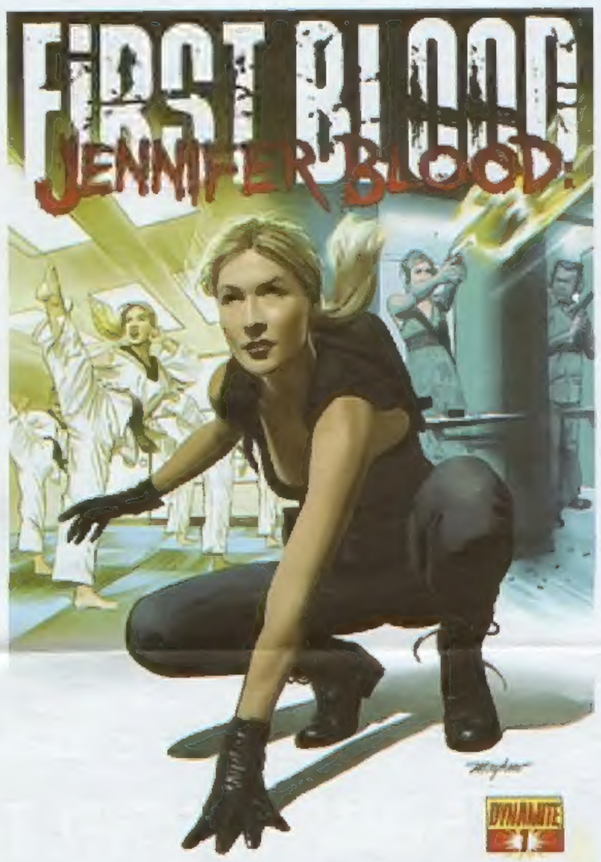
Garth Ennis's Jennifer Blood has waged war on crime and taken care of her family in two separate but interconnected lives. *Garth Ennis* and his chosen successor, *Al Garvey*, have chronicled Blood's war on crime. But thus far, readers have not known the events that motivated her to wage this war—an omission that will be corrected in ***Jennifer Blood: First Blood #1***, written by *Mike Carroll* and illustrated by *Igor Vitorino*, with covers by *Mike Mayhew*.

In ***Jennifer Blood: First Blood #1***, Jessie Blute's uncle's murdered her father and drove her mother to suicide, which forced Jessie to fake her own death. With a new identity, she distanced herself from her past, found love, raised a family... And then, many years later, she sought out her uncles and delivered brutal vengeance. But what was the trigger that turned this sweet, loving mother-of-two into a cold-hearted killing machine?

"When I was invited to pitch ideas for ***Jennifer Blood: First Blood*** I have to admit I wasn't so sure I wanted the job," says writer *Mike Carroll*, best known as the writer of the New Heroes/Quantum Prophecy series of superhero novels for young readers. "Jennifer's creator *Garth Ennis* and his successor *Al Ewing* have done some amazing stuff with the book and I knew it would be a lot of work for me to even come close to their standards. The more I thought about it, the harder the task seemed to become.

"Because ***First Blood*** is a prequel to the ongoing series, it has to work on a whole different plane... ***First Blood*** can't spoil anything important from the ongoing series, just in case new readers discover it first. Likewise, there has to be enough new stuff to keep the experienced readers entertained. Plus it has to be consistent with everything that's already been established in Jennifer's background, and everything that Al has planned for the future. It'd be like juggling chainsaws and babies while riding a unicycle along a tightrope stretched across the Niagara Falls.

"But as I was searching for reasons not to do it, I realized that I was actually falling for the idea. Sure, it'd be tough, but nothing is ever learned by taking the easy path. I reread the published issues of ***Jennifer Blood*** many times—they're a huge amount of fun to read anyway—and I came up with some questions that hadn't been answered... and a few that hadn't even been asked.



"Those questions became ideas... And ideas are the seeds of stories. Jennifer's an amazing character - a lot deeper than a casual glance might reveal - and Garth has crafted a fascinating background for her. Pretty soon I reached the conclusion that I couldn't *not* write it. Garth and Al are two of my favorite writers, and to get to play in their sandbox with such a strong character is a fantastic opportunity... I'd have to have been crazy to turn it down!

"Sure, the mini-series is a prequel so we know that Jennifer isn't going to die at the end... But it's not *that* she lives that's important: it's *how* she lives. I hope that I've done the character proud and that the fans of the ongoing series will enjoy reading ***Jennifer Blood: First Blood*** as much as I've enjoyed writing it."

"I've wanted to revisit the same stylistic territory as my ***Mystique*** covers for a while now," cover artist *Mike Mayhew* said. "Girl with a gun type stuff. ***Jennifer Blood*** is a never-before-seen twist on that. A soccer mom by day, cold-blooded vigilante by night. With the ***First Blood*** covers, I'm trying to tell the tale of her becoming Jennifer Blood. It's like 'year one,' where we see her developing from ordinary to extraordinary. It's important for me to show Jennifer as more typical and relatable modern woman... I'm also having fun with the idea that she's the mother of two small kids, something I am dealing with myself."

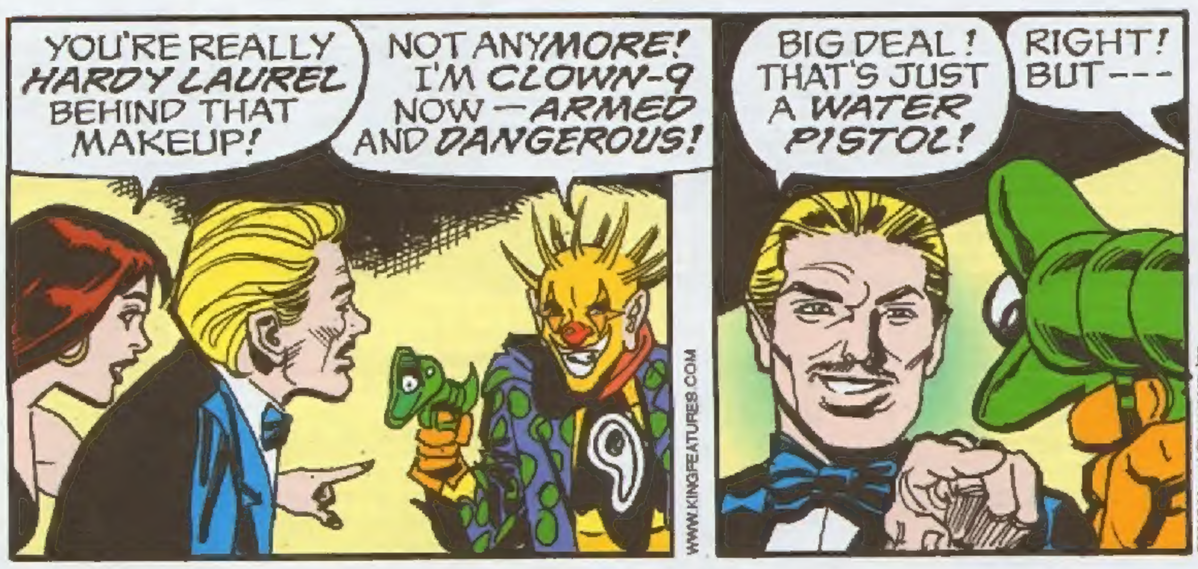
"Writer Mike Carroll came highly recommended by the ongoing ***Jennifer Blood*** writer himself, *Al Ewing*," adds Dynamite President and Publisher *Nick Barrucci*. "With *Mike Carroll*, we're continuing to grab the best writers around. I knew that Mike would be the perfect writer for the project the moment I spoke with him, and the Mike Mayhew cover is just astounding! In the Blute family, blood may run deep, but it spills easily."

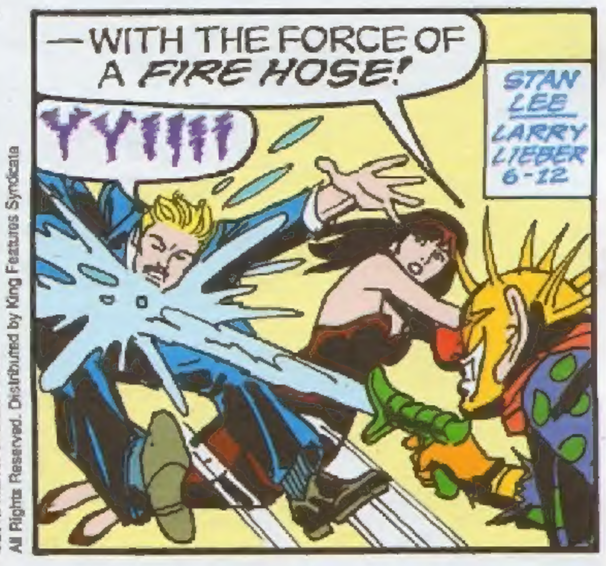
Jennifer Blood: First Blood #1 is slated for September release.

Sabretooth: Far From Extinct

A while back, readers witnessed Wolverine brutally beheading his sworn enemy Sabretooth—but as comic book readers know all too well, even the most brutal death is far from final! Writer *Jeph Loeb* and artist *Simone Bianchi* explained just how the new "Sabretooth Reborn" storyline came about, and just what they're hoping to accomplish with the return of the mutant enemy with powers that rival Wolverine's own.

Writer *Jeph Loeb* knew from the moment of Sabretooth's death that he would eventually bring Sabretooth back—and he knew that he would be joined by artist *Simone Bianchi*, who illustrated Sabretooth's demise in ***Wolverine: Evolution.*** What he didn't know, though, was that it would take five years for the two of them to return to Sabretooth. "We just waited it out until


YOU'RE REALLY HARDY LAUREL BEHIND THAT MAKEUP!
NOT ANYMORE! I'M CLOWN-9 NOW—ARMED AND DANGEROUS!
BIG DEAL! THAT'S JUST A WATER PISTOL!
RIGHT! BUT---
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM
©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate


—WITH THE FORCE OF A FIRE HOSE!
YYIIII
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-12
©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

AND NOW YOU'LL SEE WHAT SPIDER-MAN CAN DO!
AT LAST—SOMEONE WORTHY OF SHARING CENTER STAGE WITH ME!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 6-13
©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

DC COMICS™

MOST A

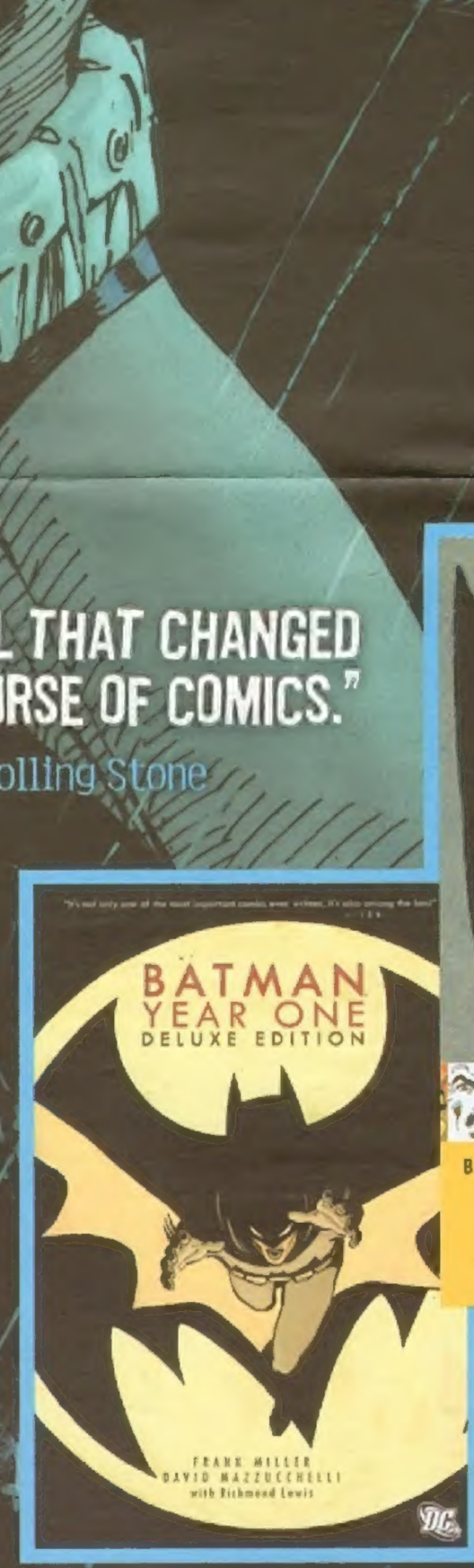
"A GRAPHIC NOVEL THAT CHANGED THE COURSE OF COMICS."

—Rolling Stone

"IT'S NOT ONLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMICS EVER WRITTEN, IT'S ALSO AMONG THE BEST."

—IGN

BATMAN: YEAR ONE



BATMAN
THE DAR
RETURN

DCCOMICS.COM

GET READY FOR THIS SUMMER'S ANTICIPATED FILM BY READING THESE CLASSIC BATMAN GRAPHIC NOVELS!

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES

JULY 20

IN THEATERS AND IMAX

"THE LONG HALLOWEEN IS MORE THAN A COMIC BOOK. IT'S AN EPIC TRAGEDY"

—Christopher Nolan (director of Batman Begins, The Dark Knight and The Dark Knight Rises)

BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY

BATMAN: KNIGHTFALL VOLS. 1 & 2

"THIS IS REQUIRED READING FOR EVERY BATMAN FAN."

—goodreads

®,TM and © 2012 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved.

Simone had an opening in his schedule," Loeb said, adding that "you just have to wait for all the pieces to come together again—but here we are!"

Loeb doesn't refer to "Sabretooth Reborn" as a sequel; instead, he says that "it's just the second half of the story."

Bianchi explained that his art has developed in the five years since "Wolverine: Evolution." "What I'm trying to do is to simplify my storytelling," Bianchi explained. "If you see my work on 'Evolution," you'll see that I laid out the page in a more complicated way. I'm trying to use a simpler geometric layout for this story; I think people are really going to love it."

Bianchi also said that he was using a different finishing technique with this story. "I tried not to inkwash my pages.. It's going to be regular traditional black and white artwork... I'm also trying to explore empty space. I tend to detail my characters and the background so much, but I'm trying to balance those details with some empty spaces where eyes can rest."

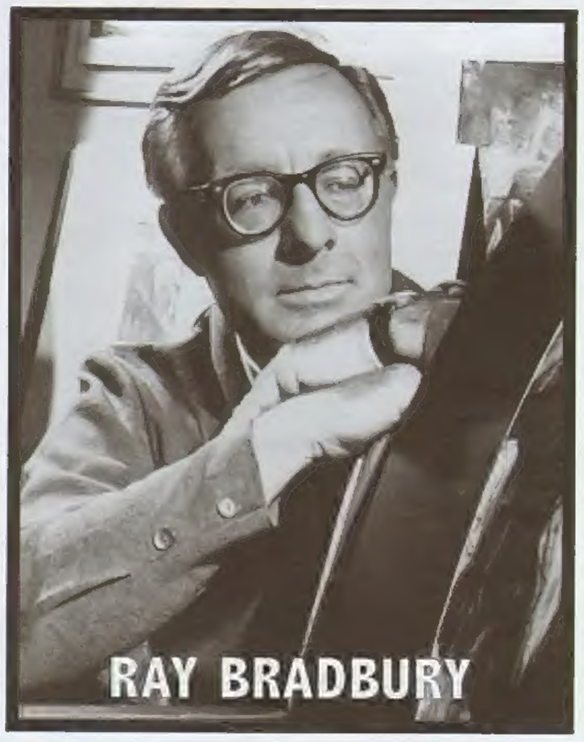
Loeb confirmed that he had considered how to bring Sabretooth back even before the character was killed off. "I'm not a big fan of trying to figure out how to make that work if it wasn't planned from the beginning," Loeb said. "It was discussed from the very beginning when *Axel Alonso* and I first discussed this story. We discussed if he was going to come back—and it was an *if*—then how were we going to do that.... This is a different kind of story in that it began with the *death* of Sabretooth and now continues with the *life* of Sabretooth..."

Loeb assured readers that this would not be a return to the old Sabretooth status quo. "It would seem odd to have him simply return without having gone anywhere... The idea of him simply returning the way he was seemed like a missed opportunity."

See just what Loeb and Bianchi have in store for Wolverine and Sabretooth on July 4th, when "Sabretooth Reborn" begins in ***Wolverine #310.***

CSNsider

•*Ray Bradbury,* acclaimed fantasist and science fiction author best known for such stunning works as ***The Martian Chronicles, Something Wicked This Way Comes,*** and ***Fahrenheit 451,*** passed away on June 5th at the age of 91. His publisher, HarperCollins, said simply that Bradbury "died peacefully... in Lost Angeles after a lengthy illness. Bradbury's involvement with comics dates back to the early 1950s, when EC Comics published stories that were derived from Bradbury's work. Rather than threatening legal action, he wrote an amiable note that pointed out that they had forgotten to mail him his $50 check for rights to adapt his story; EC, recognizing the opportunity, sent payment right away and soon a deal was reached that led to EC publishing authorized adaptations of Bradbury's work.



In the 1990s, Bradbury's stories were adapted in comics form again in a miniseries published by Topps; in more recent years, some of his most acclaimed works have been adapted as graphic novels by publisher Hill and Wang. "The thing about my books is, they're *all* graphic novels," Bradbury said in an interview issued in conjunction with the adaptations. "They're *all* motion pictures. If the word on the page is written like I write it, it's wild, it's passionate, it's explosive and you can't escape it. So, there's no difference between a novel and an illustrated novel. There's *absolutely no difference.*" Bradbury remained a lifelong fan of the comics medium since his youth, when he was enthralled with such strips as ***Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon, Tarzan,*** and ***Prince Valiant***—and comics creators and readers alike remained lifelong fans of Bradbury's evocative prose, with its almost poetic structure and cadence.

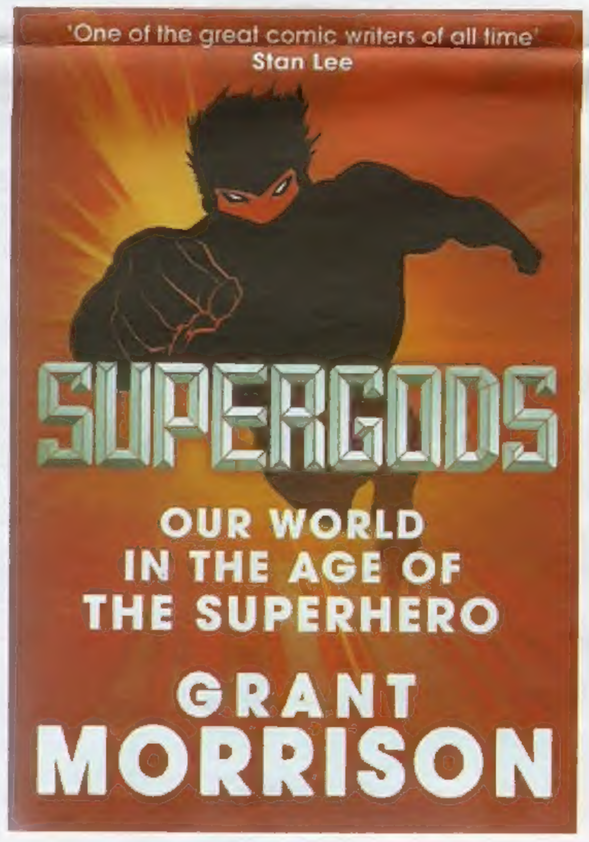
•*Robert Washington III,* best known for his work on Milestone's ***Static*** with *Dwayne McDuffie,* died on June 6th after a series of heart attacks. Washington, who also worked on ***Shadow Cabinet, Extreme Justice, Timewalker,*** and other series, was only 47 at the time of his death; he had not worked in comics in several years, other than to contribute a single-page story to ***Hero Comics 2012*** that referenced the financial struggles he had faced in the years preceding his passing (a piece made more poignant by his untimely demise).

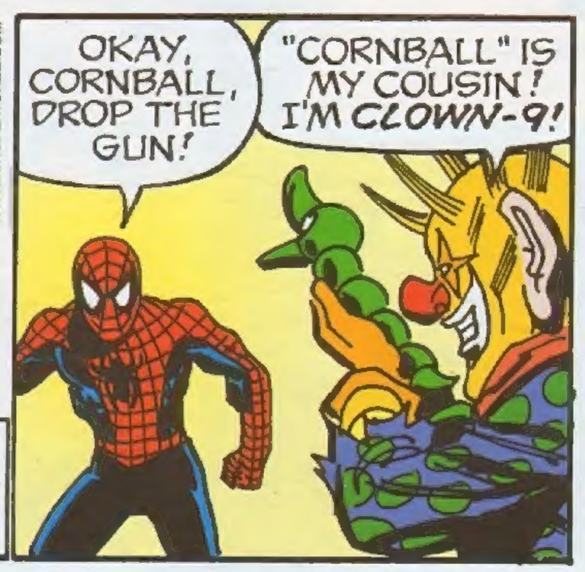
•*Carmine Di Giandomenico* replaces *Alan Davis* as artist of ***Journey Into Mystery #642;*** the issue will also be co-written by *Matt Fraction,* who is joining *Kieron Gillen* for this issue.

The Last Eagle Has Landed

The final Eagle Awards were presented in May at the MCM Expo London Comic Con (and they're the final Eagle Awards because they will be replaced in 2013 with the MCM Awards—same idea, new name). The Eagle winners for 2012 are:

- Best Newcomer (writer): *Jeff Lemire*
- Best Newcomer (artist): *Francesco Francavilla*
- Best Writer: *Scott Snyder*
- Best Artist (pencils): *J.H. Williams III*
- Best Artist (inks): *Scott Williams*
- Best Writer/Artist: *Frank Miller*
- Best Fully-Painted Artwork: *Alex Ross*
- Best Colorist: *Dave Stewart*
- Best Letterer: *Richard Starkings*
- Best Editor: *Karen Berger*
- Best Publisher: DC/Vertigo
- Best Full-Color US Comic: ***Batman***
- Best Black/White US Comic: ***The Walking Dead***
- Best Full-Color British Comic: ***Dr. Who Magazine***
- Best Black/White British Comic: Viz
- Best New Comic: ***Batman***
- Best Manga: ***20th Century Boys***
- Best European Comic Book: ***Dylan Dog***
- Best Web-Based Comic: ***Freakangels***
- Best Single Story: ***Dr Who #12***
- Best Story Arc: 'No Way Out', ***The Walking Dead***
- Best Cover: ***Batwoman #1*** by *J.H. Williams III*
- Best Original Graphic Novel: ***Batman: Noel***
- Best Reprint Compilation: Thor by Walt Simonson
- Best Comics-Related Book: ***Supergods*** by *Grant Morrison*





©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

•Best Comics Movie/TV Show: ***The Big Bang Theory***
•Best Comic Book Website: Bleeding Cool
•Best Comics-Related Magazine: ***DC Comics Superhero Collection***
•Roll of Honor: *Frank Quitely*

A Bright Future for the Shadow

Readers already know about the success Dynamite's new ***Shadow*** series—and now Dynamite has revealed that the hit series will earn its own annual this fall.

The Shadow Annual #1, written by *Tom Sniegoski* and illustrated by *Dennis Calero,* begins with the Shadow's nightmarish visions of New York City plagued by living fire—fire in the shape of a Chinese dragon-fire. But what do these visions mean? That's what the Shadow will know soon enough, no matter what he has to do to learn the truth.

"Tom and I have known each other since he was the main writer on ***Vampirella*** back in the '90's," Dynamite Entertainment President and Publisher *Nick Barrucci* said. "With his success in prose, it was hard for him to make time for comics work. We're very happy that he was able to work on our first ***Shadow Annual***. It's an awesome tale, and Dennis's art complements the story incredibly well."

"When I found out that Dynamite had ***The Shadow*** license I was ecstatic . . . and when they asked me if I was interested in writing the first annual I just about had a seizure," Sniegoski said. "Anybody who knows me knows how much I love the pulp characters—and the Shadow is number one on my list of favorites. I cut my teeth on the whole pulp hero thing in 2009 with my novel, ***Lobster Johnson: The Satan Factory,*** which won the Best Pulp Novel of 2009 from The Pulp Factory Awards. Looking back, I feel like that book was a warm up to the main attraction; now I was going to get the chance to write the character that almost all other pulp characters were trying to emulate, now I was going to get the chance to write The Shadow.

"To say that I was a little nervous was an understatement. First I had to come up with an idea for a story with the same kind of punch that the original pulps had—as powerful and exciting as *Garth Ennis* and *Aaron Campbell's* current run. After some serious thought (and a few tumblers of scotch) I came up with a story idea that everybody seemed to love. It's got everything that I'd be looking for in a Shadow story: mysterious locales, organized crime, dreams of an apocalyptic future, blazing Colt 45's and Thompson Machine Guns, and creepy kids with psychic powers . . . what's not to love?"

The Shadow Annual #1 is slated for September release.

Back to Press

•***Higher Earth #2 2nd Printing*** (APR128386), in stores 7/25.
•***Secret #2 2nd Printing*** (APR128375), in stores 7/4.
•***Thief of Thieves #5 2nd Printing*** (APR128374), in stores 7/4.
•***Earth 2 #1 2nd Printing*** (APR128345), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 7/4.
•***Earth 2 #2 2nd Printing*** (APR128267), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 7/4.
•***Prophecy #1 2nd Printing*** (APR128099), in stores 7/4.

Holiday Reminder

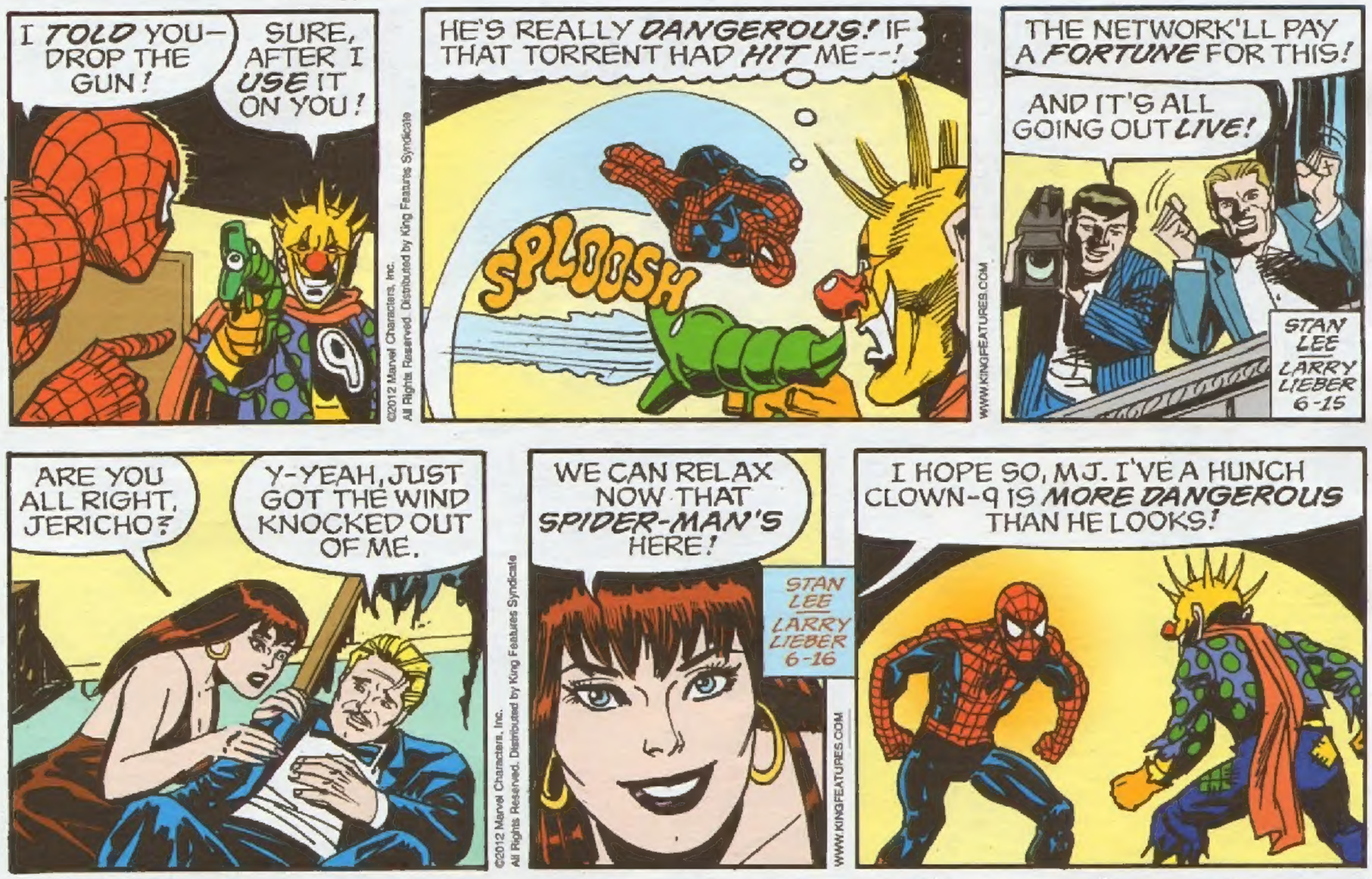
Even though Wednesday July 4th is a holiday in the United States, it is also New Comics Day for those stores that choose to open for business on that day *and* choose to participate in Diamond Comics' Day Early Delivery (which allows stores to receive books for processing on Tuesday, providing they not sell those books until Wednesday). Stores that take July 4th as a holiday will have new books for sale on Thursday, July 5th.

Check with the staff at your friendly neighborhood comic shop to find out how their schedule will be affected by the Wednesday holiday; it's up to each store to determine their schedule for the holiday week, of course. (We should point out that stores that do *not* participate in the Day Early Delivery Program will receive new releases on Thursday, July 5th.)

If you enjoy reading *CSN* each week, don't thank us, thank your retailer. They pay for the copies they give away each week because informed readers are better customers and nobody keeps readers up-to-date better than *Comic Shop News*.

Retailer support has made *CSN* possible for almost 25 years.

twitter.com/csnsider


I TOLD YOU— DROP THE GUN!
SURE, AFTER I USE IT ON YOU!
HE'S REALLY DANGEROUS! IF THAT TORRENT HAD HIT ME--!
SPLOOSH
THE NETWORK'LL PAY A FORTUNE FOR THIS!
AND IT'S ALL GOING OUT LIVE!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
6-15
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, JERICHO?
Y-YEAH, JUST GOT THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF ME.
WE CAN RELAX NOW THAT SPIDER-MAN'S HERE!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
6-16
I HOPE SO, MJ. I'VE A HUNCH CLOWN-9 IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN HE LOOKS!
©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features Syndicate
WWW.KINGFEATURES.COM

Follow *Spider-Man* every week in *Comic Shop News*!

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR **GREGG HURWITZ**
JOINS SUPERSTAR ARTIST **DAVID FINCH**

BATMAN®

THE DARK KNIGHT™

BEGINNING WITH ISSUE #10

JUNE 2012

DC COMICS™

THE NEW 52!

DCCOMICS.COM

® TM and © 2012 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved.